

## Astronomy

*"There is grandeur in this view of life... Whilst this planet has been cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning, forms most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved."* – *On the Origin of Species*



Illustration by Nicolle Rager Fuller, National Science Foundation

Links between "On the Origin of Species" and the study of the universe, its stars, planets, comets and galaxies are rarely seen. But like black holes in space, though invisible, the connections can be detected through careful observation. James H. Jeans, English physicist, astronomer and mathematician in "Evolution in the Light of Modern Knowledge," 1925, writes, "It was through the door of cosmogony that Evolution entered the temple of Science." Still, there are others who say "On the Origin of Species" had the greater influence. One-hundred and fifty years later the debate continues.